Employment opportunities in the field of IT

†812. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being invested by Government to acquire that ambitious target of export in the field of information technology togetherwith the details of the action plan to promote information technology;

(b) whether employment opportunities can be created in the field of information technology; and

(c) if so, the number of unemployed people targeted to be provided with the employment?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The thrust of the Government is to create policy ambience to attract major investments primarily from the private sector for meeting the export target. Government will act as pro active facilitator, promotor and motivator.

(b) and (c) There is a potential for creation of 7 million jobs; breakup being 2.2 million in the software sector and 4.8 million in the hardware sector.

Expenditure on Y2K

813. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article "The Rs. 1800 crore Hoax?" in the Outlook dated the 31st January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact, as claimed by NASSCOM, that Y2K issue has cost India Rs. 1,800 crore including Rs. 600 crore spent by Government's Y2K task force on publicity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would make an assessment about the justification of incurring this large expenditure which seems to have been motivated by the campaign blitz of global information superpowers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No estimate has been made by the Government of India in this regard. However, the various Ministries/Departments concerned in the Government of India have been authorized to incur expenditure upto 3% of the budget allocated to meet the Y2K threat. The Ministry of Information Technology, with the approval of the competent authority earmarked an amount of Rs. 10.4 crores to be spent on media campaign.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up a software development centre in A.P.

814. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Singapore has evinced keen interest in setting up a software development centre in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely investments to be made by Singapore in this regard in this country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The confirmed proposals are still awaited.